

NSC BRIEFING

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CYPRUS

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I. Picture appears bright for successful, peaceful transition to independence by 19 Feb 1960.

A. Commission drafting constitution again working smoothly; three-month deadlock on vice-presidential powers broken yesterday.

1. Last month's "crisis"--when constitution work stopped after British intercepted (18 Oct) Turkish boat smuggling arms to Cyprus--was short-lived.

B. Early solution also expected of dispute re bases to be retained by British.

C.

D. Col. Grivas (now in Greece) stopped criticizing Cyprus developments after meeting last month with Makarios.

II. Several clouds still in picture:

A. Relations between Greek majority (400,000 plus) and Turk minority (100,000), frequently violent in past, still inflammable--as indicated by excited (but nonviolent) reaction to recent boat-seizure incident.

B. Communists remain strong (perhaps 6,000 to 7,000 members of AKEL; won ^{10,000 of 24,000 votes cast} ~~40% of vote~~ in 1953 municipal elections).

1. But Communists now playing conciliatory, and apparently will cooperate with Makarios in putting up single slate for Greek Cypriots in first parliamentary elections (no date yet, but before independence).

C. Recent split among Greek Cypriot rightists--Mayor of Nicosia and others have called Makarios "dictatorial"--offers Communists new opportunity for exploitation.

BACKGROUND

CYPRUS

- I. Area: 3,572 square miles
Population: 563,000 (80% Greek Cypriot; 18% Turkish Cypriot)
- II. Provisions of Cyprus Accord of 19 February 1959 between UK, Greece, and Turkey:
 - A. A Basic Structure of future republic, provisions of which are to be included in constitution. (Constitutional Commission, composed of Greeks, Turks, and Greek and Turkish Cypriots, is working in Nicosia.
 1. Republic President to be a Greek Cypriot, the Vice President to be a Turkish Cypriot, each with important veto powers.
 2. Cabinet to be composed of 7 Greek and 3 Turkish Cypriots.
 3. Unicameral legislature (70% Greek and 30% Turkish), plus two communal chambers with jurisdiction over purely communal matters.
 - B. Treaty of Guaranty between UK, Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. (This is to be drafted by a joint committee in London.)
 1. To guarantee independence and to prohibit partition or union with another state.
 2. To provide for consultation and concerted or unilateral action to prevent infringement of provisions.

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- C. Treaty of Alliance between Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus providing for joint defense of Cyprus. (This treaty was initialled in Athens on 27 October.)
- D. Declaration by UK setting forth conditions for transferring sovereignty and reserving for Britain two military enclaves on Cyprus. (Work on implementation is being done by joint committee in London.)

III. Chronology of Important Events Since Settlement Negotiated:

- 19 Feb 59 - Cyprus accord signed.
- 1 Mar 59 - Makarios returns to Cyprus.
- 17 Mar 59 - EOKA leader Grivas flies to Greece.
- 29 Jul 59 - Grivas "dissociates" himself from Cyprus settlement.
- 7 Aug 59 - Deadlock over Vice President's powers begins in constitutional commission.
- 7-9 Oct 59 - Makarios and Grivas meet on Rhodes.
- 18 Oct 59 - Turkish boat loaded with ammunition captured near Cyprus.
- 27 Oct 59 - Tri-partite Treaty of Alliance initialled in Athens.
- 10 Nov 59 - Constitutional commission breaks deadlock on vice-presidential powers.

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